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September 28, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Leesa Aiken
1500 Senate Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201
laiken@statelibrary.sc.gov

RE: Follow-up from the Subcommittee meetings with the agency

Dear Director Aiken:

The Education and Cultural Subcommittee appreciates the State Library's continued partnership in the oversight process.

The Subcommittee requests the agency provide written responses to questions or provide additional data to further clarify information provided during the study process. Please provide this information by Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

Please note the Subcommittee cannot accept any confidential information that cannot be placed online and that all correspondence received from agencies who have been or are currently under study is sworn testimony.

Talking Book Services

1. Do you inquire as to how qualifying TBS participants became aware of the program? If not, is the agency willing to collect this information to inform staff regarding the effectiveness of current marketing and communication methods?
2. Please inform the committee regarding the methods employed by the agency in its efforts to establish relationships with the Veterans Affairs Administration, ophthalmologist, and other organizations or professions providing services to people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding a printed page.

3. Have agency staff contacted the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs for assistance with building a partnership with the Veterans Affairs Administration?

Discus

4. Agency staff provided testimony confirming the availability of data specific to school utilization of Discus resources. Please provide this information and contextualize the data to assist the Subcommittee in understanding utilization rates for state schools.

PASCAL

5. Agency staff stated PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) benefits financially from its ability to negotiate discounts with vendors that have Discus database contracts with the State Library. Please provide an estimate of total savings experienced by PASCAL due to its ability to negotiate discounts.

Summer Reading

6. Provide the most recent statistics and demographic information for students participating in summer reading programs in South Carolina.
7. The State Library, as a partner in providing resources to support Read to Succeed initiatives, would benefit from receiving data on the impact of the program.
 - a. Has the agency's staff ever requested Read to Succeed summer camp data from the Department of Education to assess whether participating students improved reading scores?
 - i. If yes, has the Department of Education provided the requested information?
 - b. Would this information be useful to the agency as it develops services and resources in support of Read to Succeed programming?
 - i. If yes, will the agency make every effort to acquire this information from the Department of Education?

Read In

8. Please provide the date for the 2023 Read In.
9. Identify the schools, and the associated school districts, whose students participated in the 2019 and 2022 Read In events (e.g., in-person, virtually, etc.).
10. Please provide details regarding the methods of communication used by the State Library to maximize participation in the annual Read In event.

Employment Resources

11. Please provide usage data for library resources designed to support unemployed and underemployed customers.
 - a. From the agency's own analysis of the data, are there opportunities to better inform persons within these categories, and organizations that support these populations, of the resources available through the State Library?

- i. If so, how will the agency address this moving forward?

Consulting Services

- 12. Agency personnel confirmed requests received from county libraries, regarding services or programs offered at those libraries, will receive consultative services if requested.
 - a. If a county library system requests the State Library consult on how it can develop, market, and host a Drag Queen Story Hour, will the agency provide those services?
 - i. If yes, what consultative services would be provided (e.g., marketing, media/public relations, etc.)?

Agency Personnel Budget

- 13. How much additional funding has been requested by agency leadership, and appropriated by the General Assembly, to increase staff salaries during the last five fiscal years?
 - a. How much additional funding is expected to be requested by agency leadership in the FY2023-24 budget?
- 14. Agency personnel stated dollars for dedicated vacant FTEs have been reallocated to increase the salaries of existing staff. Please provide the total number of fully funded, and partially funded, vacant FTEs.

State Library Programs

- 15. Agency staff confirmed LGBTQIA+ programming has been hosted at the State Library.
 - a. Please provide the topic, for each program, and the date of the event.
- 16. Agency staff stated PCI webinars and Niche Academy trainings are offered by state libraries across the country.
 - a. Please identify the states providing trainings through these platforms.
- 17. Please provide the amount of funding expended on the most recent contracts with PCI webinars and Niche Academy.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson

cc: Education and Cultural Subcommittee